

Dietary Supplements Council Annual Report | 2021

Founded in 2015, the aim of the Dietary Supplement Council is to provide a forum for discussing issues, challenges and opportunities related to the organic dietary supplement industry, and to develop and grow the sector in general by raising awareness and increasing access to educational materials and resources.

The Dietary Supplements Council continues to serve primarily as a roundtable for the organic supplements community to convene and discuss current topics of interest and receive legislative and regulatory updates from Organic Trade Association staff. Milestones for 2020 included the completion of a long-term project to protect the continued availability of vegetarian encapsulated supplements certified under USDA's National Organic Program (NOP) and establishing a collaborative relationship with the trade association's Residues Task Force.

"Participation in the Dietary Supplements Council has been an invaluable education. I hear from industry peers with experiences that range from eerily similar to vastly different, and that variety and candor is not easy to find. I strongly encourage anyone in the field to join the Council for two reasons: first, the more voices present, the better for the industry; second, OTA provides excellent framing for issues/changes/challenges/concerns. This latter benefit cannot be overstated. OTA is making my life easier by keeping me informed about things that could affect my company! Please join us!"

– *Genevieve Albers, Traditional Medicinals (Council Secretary)*

Highlights from 2021:

- Prioritized its professional development through robust information sharing and networking at its meetings and advocacy for residue testing issues for supplements. Some of the key issues discussed included the impact of supply chain disruptions on industry, and the growth and challenges of the evolving organic hemp and hemp-derived ingredients.
- In collaboration with OTA's Fiber Council, they supported with the completion of OTA's Hemp Fact Sheet published at [OTA.com/hemp](https://ota.com/hemp).
- Since the Council's formation, it has prioritized and valued the education offered from NOSB updates from OTA's Regulatory Team.
- The Council grew its membership in 2021, adding two new members to its roster and looking forward to continual growth and education opportunities in 2022.

Looking Ahead to 2022:

- Developing educational resources for members.
- Education and information sharing on key issues to industry, such as residues.
- Prioritizing networking and professional development opportunities through information sharing and identifying challenges and issues facing industry.
- Support member outreach and recruitment as well as further the aim of the Council, the Organic Trade Association and the American Herbal Products Association (AHPA) are also in discussion to join forces through a formal partnership to strengthen and grow the North American organic supplement sector.

COUNCIL MEMBERS



Jeffrey Brams (Garden of Life) is chair of the Dietary Supplements Council. Thatcher Vagts (The Synergy Company) is the Vice Chair, and Genevieve Albers (Traditional Medicinals) is the Secretary. The Organic Trade Association's Vice President of Regulatory and Technical Affairs Gwendolyn Wyard supports the work of the Council. To learn more or join the Council, contact her at gwyard@ota.com.



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